

# Pasadena

## COMMUNITY

### Boy Scout Troop 41 Holds Reunion Dinner

On March 14, 1931, nine Japanese-American boys got together at a church in Pasadena to become boy scouts. Sponsored by Reverend Kengo Tajima and the Pasadena Japanese Union Church, this was to be the birth of Troop 41. For sixty years, Troop 41 was to become one of the most successful troops in Southern California scouting history.

On a recent spring evening, 200 former members of Troop 41 got together for a reunion dinner at the Quiet Cannon Country Club in Montebello. Reunion committee chairman Ron Dyo worked closely with committee members Linda Yamauchi and Ed Endo to bring together former scoutmasters, troop officials, scouts, and their parents to laugh and visit while reminiscing over pictures that displayed memorable moments and achievements of years past. Included among the guests was one of those nine original nine boys: Mas Sugano.

Former Scoutmaster Sei Dyo served as the master of ceremonies, and he introduced Yamauchi, who detailed Troop 41's history. Special awards were presented to Sugano, who was the Troop's first eagle scout, and to Joe Nishimura, who generously supported the Troop with numerous donations.

The Honorable Cary Nishimoto and Dr. Ko Nishimura, both former Eagle Scouts, were the evening's guest speakers. Nishimoto, currently a Superior Court Judge, remembered how everyone took pride in being in Troop 41, and for the scouts, "nothing was routine except excellence, achievement, discipline and self respect". Nishimura recalled Troop 41's



Included among the evening's guests were former Scoutmasters, Asst Scoutmasters, and their wives. Back row: Henry Hayashi, Fred Hiraoka, Ross Iwanaga, Yukio Hino. Front row: Elsie Hayashi, Frances Hiraoka, Dorothy Iwanaga, Ann Matsumoto.

first Jamboree, and the doubts the scouts had of even going. Never having been to a Jamboree before, they weren't sure how they would fare. Needless to say, Troop 41's first entry won the President's Award, which is the Jamboree's highest honor. The following year, a patrol led by Eddie Yamashita was not only first in the San Gabriel Valley, but was tops in Los Angeles County.

Between 1931 and 1943, the troop was

sponsored by the Japanese Union Church, and then the Pasadena Presbyterian Church. With the outbreak of World War II and the evacuation, the troop's charter lapsed in 1943. For those boys interned in Gila River, a new troop was activated under the direction of Scoutmaster Bud Fujimoto. Most of the scout activities took place within the confines of the camp, but he was able to take them to a YMCA in Phoenix, where the boys earned badges

in lifesaving and swimming.

With many families returning to Pasadena after the war, Troop 41 was reactivated in 1951 under the sponsorship of the Pasadena Japanese Community Center, which is now known as the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute. Harry Osaki, who once owned a national record for earning 105 merit badges, served as scoutmaster and Yosh Fujimoto was the Explorer Advisor. Ko Nishimura earned the troop's first post-war Eagle. Under the direction of leaders such as Bud Fujimoto, Sei Dyo, Harvard Yuki, and Shuichi Ogura, Troop 41 set standards in the 1950's that the scouts of the next three decades tried hard to duplicate. Troop 41 continued to be the troop to beat in both the local and national Jamborees, winning many medals in competitions of scouting skills. More importantly, the troop proved to be a unifying force in a city where a family's friends and social activities were often dictated by their church affiliation.

In 1990, the troop that spanned 3 generations and overcame the difficulties of WWII and the internment camps, faced a challenge they could not overcome: the struggle to find new recruits. On July 27, 1991, the seven remaining scouts in Troop 41 attained the rank of Eagle. This brought the troop total to 112 Eagle Scouts, the highest number in its district of the San Gabriel Valley Council. With the retiring of colors at the Eagle Court of Honor, the colorful 60 year history of Troop 41 quietly came to an end.

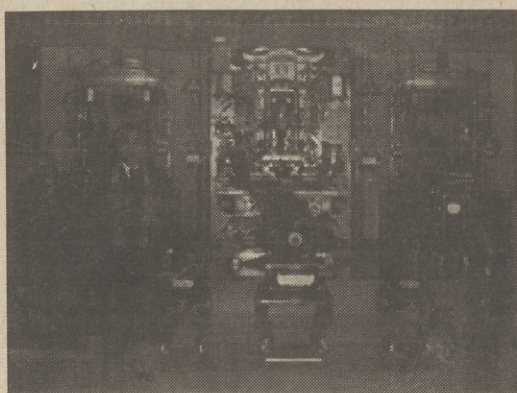
### Pasadena Buddhist Temple Celebrates Obon July 17-18

Obon is a time to remember our ancestors and to honor all of our loved ones who have passed on. Obon odori (Japanese dancing) is referred to as a "Gathering of Joy", and it celebrates the attainment of Enlightenment. The Pasadena Buddhist Temple will be holding its annual Obon Festival on July 17 and 18, and the community is invited to attend.

Festivities will begin at 4:30 pm each day, with cultural demonstrations and exhibits that feature bonsai and ikebana. There will be games for the kids, and booths serving food items such as beef and chicken teriyaki, chow mein, and udon. Traditional Obon Odori will take place starting at 7:00 each evening. There will also be booths featuring books from Heritage Source, t-shirts designed by Nobuhiko "Nobe" Yamabe, and ceramics by Hiroshi Ogawa.

Also on hand will be the Asian for Miracle Marrow Matches (A3M).

Obon dance practice is currently being held Tuesday and Thursday nights at 7:00 in the church parking lot. The Pasadena Buddhist Church



Reverend Tetsuo Unno & Reverend Tetsunen Hirota in front of the Pasadena Buddhist Temple's Hondo

is located at 1993 Glen Ave. For further information, please call Jeannie Toshima at (626) 799-6684.

#### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Saturday, July 17**  
5:00 Aikido and Iaido - Aikido Center of Los Angeles  
6:00 Judo - Pasadena Kodokan Judo  
7:00 Obon Odori  
8:00 Taiko performance by the Taiko Center of Los Angeles  
**Sunday, July 18**  
5:00 Chado (Tea Ceremony)  
6:00 Kendo - Pasadena Kendo Dojo  
7:00 Obon Odori  
8:00 Taiko performance by Koshin Taiko



Pasadena Nikkei Seniors recently enjoyed an outing to the Japanese American National Museum. (Left to right) Miyuki Takeda, Nattie Koyama, Mitsie Yanari, Ida Nakayama, Ralph Yanari, Fujiko Sameshima, Kiyoshi Takeda, Fumi Yuge, Kazuo Hayakawa, Yoshiko Takahashi, and Tom Arita.

### Nikkei Seniors at Home on The Road

Ever had an inkling to get together with some friends and take a 4 day Mexico cruise? Or maybe see the Grand Canyon, Washington D.C., or Mt Rushmore? Or how about a day trip to visit the Long Beach Aquarium or take in a matinee performance of the Palm Springs Follies?

These are just a few of the places that the Pasadena Nikkei Seniors (PNS) have visited and enjoyed recently. With a current membership of 325, the Nikkei Seniors are the largest and most active organization housed by the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute (PJCI).

Besides enjoying the aforementioned activities, the Seniors have a bridge club, handicraft class, and karaoke class that meets once a week. The first Thursday of the month is reserved for cooking instructions from Yoshimasa Matsumoto, and a mini-health clinic is held the second Saturday of the month, where they are tended to by a podiatrist and a chiropractor. Dr. Johnny Umeda, DC, has been serving their chiropractic needs since 1993, and Dr. Ken Teshima has been volunteering his services as a podiatrist for 17 years, recently making the monthly drive all the way into Pasadena from his home in Laguna Hills.

The PNS also gets together once a month at luncheons hosted on a rotating basis by the PJCI, the Pasadena Buddhist Church Fujin-Kai, and the Altadena Presbyterian Church Women's Association. Their annual New Year's Party is typically attended by nearly 300 members. They also regularly charter buses for 2 and 3 day trips to Las Vegas, Laughlin, and Staterline. They recently returned from a 5 day trip that included stops in San Francisco, Reno, and Lake Tahoe, and they spent a day touring the Japanese American National Museum.

A visit to Dodger Stadium as part of Japanese American Community Day is scheduled for early July, and in August, they plan on co-hosting a community picnic at Pasadena's Brookside Park with the PJCI.

The Pasadena Nikkei Seniors was formerly known as the Pasadena Pioneer Project, which was begun in 1971 by the Sansei Pasadena Asian Concern. It was organized primarily to raise funds so that they might sponsor a *hanami* (flower

viewing) trip for the *Issei* residents of the community. The trip was repeated in 1972 and 1973, and by 1974, genuine interest grew to establish a pioneer group in Pasadena.

A permanent meeting room was established at the PJCI, and in March, 1975, under the leadership of Sumi Maruyama, Itsy Ota, Dorothy Iwanaga, Kathy Maruyama, Greg Hamane, Mark Matsui, and Wade Utsunomiya, the Pasadena Pioneer Project was incorporated as a charitable non-profit organization to provide services and facilities for the elderly.

As recounted by former PNS President Dr. Osamu Miyamoto, the fledgling organization struggled in its early years. But by 1979, because of the hard work of volunteers like Ida Nakayama, Ana Seiki, and Sumi Maruyama, the Project became a more viable entity.

The primary emphasis of the organization remained to provide outings for the *Issei*, for they had little opportunity to travel, and most led somewhat isolated lives. Places such as Catalina, the Ice Capades, Solvang, a hot spring, an apple farm, and the William Hart Ranch were early destinations, and buses were provided free of charge. The Project became part of the California Federation of Pioneer Centers, and it expanded its activities to bring together the *Issei* of other pioneer groups.

In time, the number of *Issei* able to physically participate in the Project's activities began to dwindle. As the number of retiring Nisei increased, and with an increased interest in the organization shown by immigrants and business men and women from Japan, a name change was initiated. In December of 1985, the group's name was officially changed to the Pasadena Nikkei Seniors, Inc. to reflect the changing needs of the membership.

A few years ago, the PJCI expanded and remodeled the PNS meeting room, and a community library was added. Kiyoshi Takeda has served as PNS President for 12 years, and he has been ably assisted by long time Cabinet members Ida Nakayama, Mitsie Yanari, Fumi Yuge, and Nattie Koyama. For information regarding the Pasadena Nikkei Seniors, please call 626 359-3780.

### Matsuri Camp Scheduled for End of July

The 4th Annual PJCI Summer Matsuri Camp is scheduled to be held July 26 - 30 from 9-12 noon. The program was started in the summer of 1996 as a vehicle to expose children to Japanese traditions and culture. Targeting kids ages 6 to 11, this is done through crafts, dance, foods, games, songs, and stories. In previous years, Matsuri Campers have sculpted a daruma, made a furoshiki, and designed kites. Guests have been invited to demonstrate obon dances and to teach the campers how to make beanbags for juggling games. Japanese songs and stories are done during quiet time.

Last year the Matsuri Camp enjoyed a field trip to Mikawaya to sample and see how *manju* is made. One of the highlights for the young campers is to prepare a lunch for the PJCI Nikkei Senior Board members. The young chefs have received a thumbs up for their sushi



Camp Director Amy Utsunomiya (far left) and her Matsuri Campers.

and somen.

Space is still available for this year's Matsuri Camp. Enrollment is limited to 24 campers. The cost is \$40, \$25 for

PJCI members, and it includes a camp t-shirt. Please call Camp Director Amy Utsunomiya (626) 799-7719 for information.

### Bruins Continue Three-Decade Rose City Tradition

Boys and girls in the Pasadena area have been playing basketball under the banner of the Pasadena Bruins for nearly thirty years. In the recently concluded CYC and JAO seasons, the Bruins fielded a total of 15 teams. Two of the teams finished

the season as league co-champions: Girls Midget Bronze coached by Scott Shinmoto, and the Girls Midget Silver coached by Jayme Kiyomura. Further information on the Bruins can be obtained by calling John Ozawa at 818 790-7049.



Midget Bronze: (Back) Stephanie Chan, Camille Ishihara, Danielle Sierras, Stephanie Ozawa, Kerin Higa. (Front) Lauren Matsumoto, Jordan Toyama, Kendall Shinmoto, Hana Asano.



Midget Silver: (Back) Kelly Wong, Breanna Barnhart, Lauren Takeda, Mackenzi Kawachi. (Middle) Staci Hisayasu, Alyssa Yamane. (Front) Britney Kagawa, Lisa Kiyomura, Coach Jayme Kiyomura, Elizabeth McBride.

### Pasadena Gakuen Ready For New School Year



Pasadena Gakuen will be starting a new semester July 24 at the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute. Classes are held Saturday mornings from 8:45-12:00.

The gakuen recently held its annual Kodomo-no-hi (Children's Day) festivities.

School principal Kimiyo Campen displays her skill on the taiko during a special taiko demonstration. For enrollment information, please call Max Zirkelbach at (818) 249-0018.

### PJCI Schedule of Activities

(These schedules may change, call for current information)

Pasadena Gakuen (818) 249-0018  
Saturday Mornings 8:45-12:00  
  
Pasadena Aiki-kai (626) 797-3946  
Sunday Mornings 8:30 am  
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 6:00 pm  
  
Pasadena Kodokan Judo (626) 963-4206  
Tuesday Evenings 7:00 - 8:30 pm  
Saturday Afternoons 3:30 - 5:00 pm  
  
Pasadena Nikkei Seniors (626) 359-3780

Shodo (310) 321-9405  
Friday Evenings 7:30 pm  
  
Pasadena Kendo Dojo (626) 795-4437  
Friday Evenings 7:30 pm  
  
Naginata (818) 790-2246  
Saturday mornings 9:00 am  
  
Exercise Class Thursdays 3:30 - 4:30 pm  
  
Handicrafts Wednesday Mornings

PJAA Bruins (818) 790-7049  
Call for information  
  
Koto Lessons (626) 441-4475  
Private & Groups Saturday morning  
  
Karaoke Club Friday evenings  
  
Bridge Club Wednesdays 10:00 - Noon  
  
Japanese Cooking Class  
First Thursdays, 10:00 - Noon

### COMMUNITY PAGES in The Rafu Shimpō

If you like this page, please help us keep it. If you know of worthy events, love to write, keep the calendar for your organization or want to advertise, please call Michael Motoyasu at (213) 629-2231.

We are in real need of all the above, but we cannot impress on the importance of paid advertisements. So please, Pasadena, help us keep something that will be for us.